

WASHINGTON, D.C. - At the request of Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel), the Department of Defense has completed a report detailing its lack of accommodation for disabled veterans and military retirees at DoD golf facilities around the country.

In the report, DoD agrees to purchase specialized golf carts to accommodate disabled veterans and other military retirees, with special focus on amputees, at military golf courses across the country. However, the report suggests that current regulations prohibit the use of appropriated funds for golf equipment, although the report fails to explain why golf carts for disabled golfers would not be purchased with the same non-appropriated funds as traditional golf carts.

"The military has created a wonderful program using golf as a rehabilitation tool for our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan," Rep. Farr said, "but they have failed to provide the equipment necessary to continue playing. It's cruel to offer these soldiers, many who are amputees, this skill only to discharge them from rehabilitation with no outlet to continue their recovery."

If two specialized carts are purchased for each military course, the report estimates the cost at \$3 million. DoD operates 174 golf courses, though a handful of courses with hazardous terrain would not get carts.

"The report suggests that the Department of Defense will only purchase this essential equipment if additional funds are provided," Rep. Farr said. "That's not only contrary to the essence of the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, it suggests that our veterans and retirees do not deserve the same accommodation as everyone else."

Rep. Farr plans to press the Department of Defense to fulfill its responsibilities to all our veterans and military retirees.

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